

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:

means for sending an electronic mail in which a unique access key is affixed to each one of a plurality of specified participants;

means for selecting an application one of a plurality of applications for a lottery on the basis of said unique access key received from each of said participants, and

means for notifying each one of said plurality of participants of their result of said lottery.

2. (ORIGINAL) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein the result of said lottery is obtained by a drawing performed when the user applies for said lottery.

3. (ORIGINAL) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein the result of said lottery is previously decided before said electronic mail is sent.

4. (ORIGINAL) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein a discrimination of the application for said lottery is performed by use of said access key and a destination mail address of said electronic mail.

5. (ORIGINAL) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein said access key is an address of an electronic mail sent back by said user.

6. (ORIGINAL) The lottery system according to claim 5, wherein the result of said lottery is performed by notifying a URL of a page informing the result and an access keyword, using an electronic mail.

67. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 5, notifying said participant of a URL of a page via electronic mail, where said page holds the result of said lottery as well as an access keyword.

78. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim-6_7, wherein the URL of the page informing said result is separated into one for a win of a prize and the other for a failure in winning the prize.

89. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim-6_7, wherein by entering said access keyword and an mail address to which said access keyword is sent into the page informing said result, a page for the win of the prize and a page of the failure in winning the prize can be accessed.

910. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein said access key is a keyword either in a URL of a page for application or in a specified URL; and when said user accesses said URL, said user can access a URL informing the result of the lottery.

1011. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim-9_10, wherein a destination mail address of said electronic mail, which is entered in said URL, is used for discrimination.

1112. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lottery system according to claim 1, wherein data of said user who applied for the lottery is collected and stored.

1213. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lottery system according to claim 1, wherein said lottery system is entirely incorporated into a computer system.

14. (NEW) A lottery system utilizing an electronic mail, comprising:
means for sending an electronic mail in which a unique access key is
affixed to each one of a plurality of specified participants;
means for selecting one of a plurality of applications for a lottery on the
basis of said unique access key received from each of said participants;
means for determining a result for each participant upon receipt of said
unique access key; and
notifying each one of said plurality of participants of their result of said
lottery immediately after determining their result.

15. (NEW) A method for conducting a lottery, comprising the steps of:
sending by a host an electronic mail along with an access key affixed
thereto to at least one lottery participant at the at least one lottery participant's
electronic mail address, the access key being at least partially a reply electronic mail
address;
after receipt of the access key, applying for the lottery by the at least one
lottery participant by sending a response electronic mail including the access key and
the at least one participant's electronic mail address to the reply electronic mail
address;
upon receipt of the reply electronic mail by the host, instantaneously
determining a result of the lottery for the at least one participant; and
immediately after determining the result, notifying the at least one
participant of the result.